

RENEW THE BLUE



Bus Replacement Service During 2026 Blue Line Construction

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2026 METRO Blue Line Rail Construction Overview

- After 20+ years of service¹, the METRO Blue Line is undergoing needed improvements, upgrades, and other essential maintenance. This multi-year phase (2025-2027) of the transformation is underway and impacts the entire Blue Line, from the Mall of America to Target Field.
- Buses will replace trains during construction periods. The primary 2026 rail construction runs from **June 29-August 19** (52 days). There will also be 2 weekend-only construction needs prior to June 29 to prepare for the work.
- Construction activity includes civil improvements, communications, electrical, mechanical, structural and track & signal work.
- The project helps ensure system reliability for our riders for years to come

¹ The Blue Line opened on June 26, 2004



2026 Blue Line Construction Activity Plans

2026 Rail Construction Overview Details

Dates	Duration	Line/Location	Comments	Bus Replacement
5/9-10 5/30-31	2 days x 2	Partial Blue Line (North)	Pre-work	Target Field-Ft. Snelling
6/29-8/19	52 days	Full length Blue Line	MT + MAC projects	Target Field-Mall of America
6/29-7/26	28 days	Partial Green Line (Downtown)	I-35W interchange	Target Field-West Bank <i>Will use Blue Line bus bridge</i>
8/16-19	4 days	Partial Green Line (Downtown)	I-35W interchange	Target Field-West Bank <i>Will use Blue Line bus bridge</i>

Calendar of 2026 Scheduled Rail Construction

April '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Civil Construction



- Blue Line station improvements
- Between car barriers / platform door tiles
- Locations:
 - All Blue Line stations from Target Field to Mall of America

Communications / Electrical Construction / Mechanical

- Minnehaha & Lindbergh Tunnel Intrusion Detection System (IDS) upgrades
- Variable Message Sign (VMS) installations at Blue Line Stations from Target Field to Mall of America
- Lindbergh Tunnel south portal boiler upgrade



Airport Station Renovation



- MSP Terminal 1 station renovation (MAC led)
 - Upgrading escalators
 - Upgrading elevators
 - Improving wayfinding
 - Mechanical upgrades

Structural Construction

- Interchange bridge deck cleaning
- Cedar Ave. & Franklin Ave. bridge redecking
 - Removal of rail, ties, ballast, and improving decking on bridges



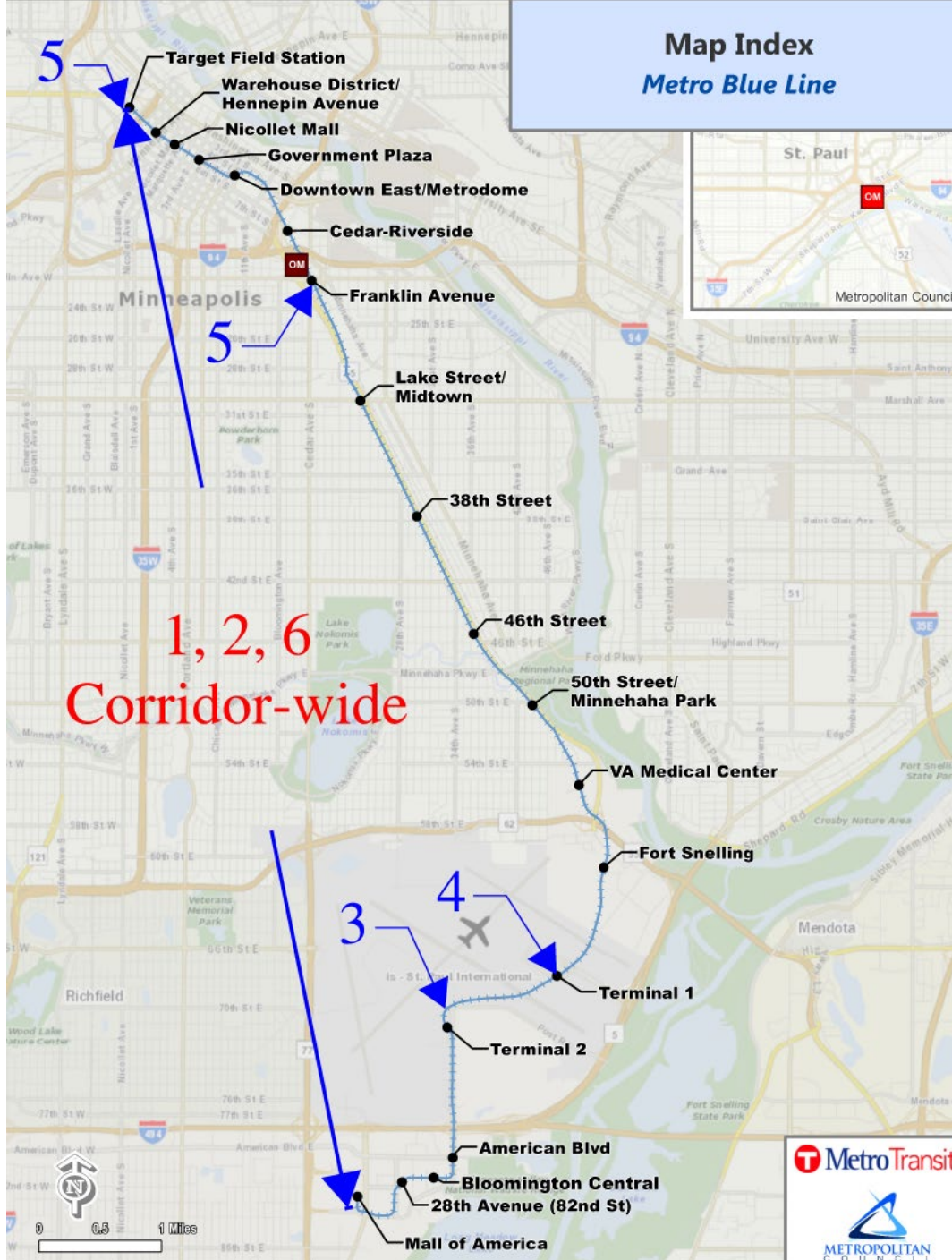
Track & Signals Construction



- 5th St. at 2nd Ave. North rail replacement
- Park Ave. & Warehouse civil improvements
 - Replace rail
 - Fix spalled concrete
 - Traffic improvements
- 32nd St. crossover replacement
- Signal work from Franklin Ave. to 42nd St.
- Signal Testing

Rail Breaks (Maintenance)





Map of Projects

1. Civil
2. Comms/Electrical
3. Mechanical/Electrical
4. Mechanical/Wayfinding
5. Structural
6. Track & Signals Phase 2



Blue Line Bus Replacement Service

Bus Replacement Service

- Evaluated many alternatives during project scoping and design.
 - Full bus replacement determination was made in 2023 for consistent customer experience and due to the type and locations of the construction work.
- During 2025, buses replaced Blue Line trains on two occasions:
 - April 23-May 14 between Mall of America and Ft. Snelling (partial line)
 - September 22-October 3 between Mall of America and Target Field (full line)
- We learned a lot from these events and are applying that knowledge to make 2026 bus replacement service more efficient and rider-friendly. We are also integrating rider feedback and sentiment collected by our Customer Experience team during the Fall service disruption.

Implementing Lessons Learned - Examples

- Improved bus travel times & staging locations
- Northbound routing improvements & ADA bus stop pads
- Bus destination signage improvements
- Construction timing will match service day start & end times
- Increased & improved coordination with MAC partners

Bus Replacement Service: *Northbound* Transit Time Examples

Segment	Rail Transit Time	Fall 2025 Bus Transit Time	Summer 2026 Bus Transit Time
Mall of America>Terminal 1	0:12	0:26	0:20
Mall of America>Lake St	0:24	0:57	0:44
Terminal 1>Nicollet Mall	0:24	0:48	0:51

Bus Replacement Service: *Southbound* Transit Time Examples

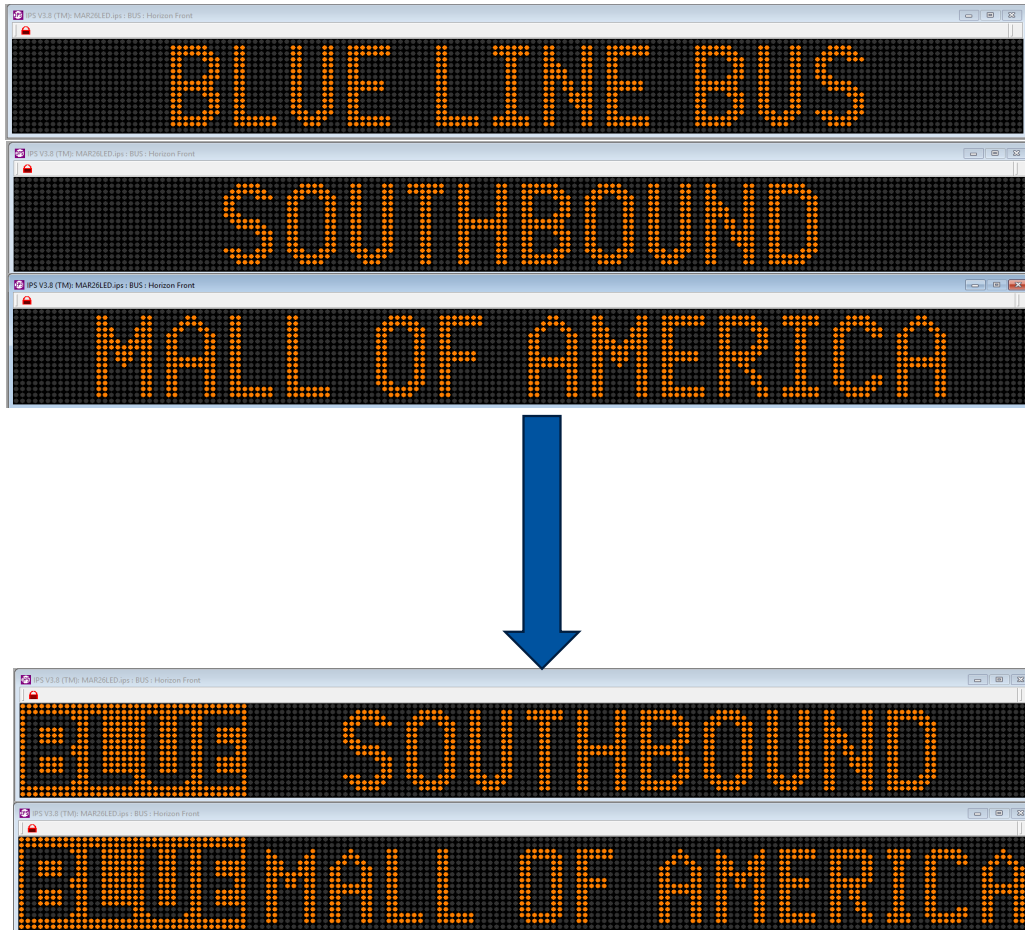
Segment	Rail Transit Time	Fall 2025 Bus Transit Time	Summer 2026 Bus Transit Time
Nicollet Mall>Terminal 1	0:22	0:48	0:47
Lake St>Mall of America	0:26	0:47	0:43
Terminal 1>Mall of America	0:13	0:21	0:16

Installing ADA Accessible Bus Stop Boarding Pads



- Installing ADA pads at north-bound 46th, 38th and Lake St.
 - Facilitates wheelchair, walker, stroller, etc. bus entry and exits
- Avoids turning left into 46th & 38th St. Transit Centers as well as turning left on to Lake St.
 - Revised, shorter bus routings and run times

Revised, Clearer Bus Destination Signage



- Simplified bus destination signage
 - 2 panels vs. 3
- New signage is now consistent with other BRT “colored” lines such as the METRO Gold, Orange and Red

Construction Timing Tied to Service Day End / Start

- Previous construction started at 10pm, and concluded when it was complete
- Moving forward, construction will start after the last train of the day has operated, and conclude prior to the first train of the day
- Provides an easier bus / rail transition with a bigger window to add / remove signage



Considered Impacts of MAC Projects (i.e. Post Rd. in 2026)



- Increased and improved coordination with the Metropolitan Airports Commission
- Will avoid using Post Road for bus replacement service in 2026 due to a reconstruction project
- Ongoing meetings with MAC / MSP to communicate bus replacement service

PHASE 2 of the
TRACK & SIGNALS
REPLACEMENT
PROJECT



**Buses will replace
METRO Blue Line
trains**

JUNE 29 – AUG. 19



Renew the Blue: Track & Signals Phase 2 Marketing

Phase 1 Learnings

- Marketing placements aligned with where our customers were.
 - Transit media, announcements, rider alerts
- 85% of our customers knew about the construction*
- 44% of our customers want to receive alerts 2-4 weeks in advance of buses replacing trains*
- Customer Sentiment Pilot and Ambassador Feedback downtown Minneapolis logistical issues with wayfinding signage and awareness



*330 survey responses

Phase 2 Pivots & Updates

- Creative to highlight buses replacing trains
- Multilanguage creative versions at key stations
- Highlight why this project is important and what the result will be
- Toolkit development for our key stakeholders and partners
- Feet on the ground in more areas
- Elevated wayfinding signage



Marketing & Outreach Plan

Marketing

Renew the Blue Initiative – In Market Now

Track & Signals Phase 2 Media Assets – In Market June 1, 2026:

- BIPOC: Digital and radio
- Transit Media: Print and digital ads
 - Key placements: to include multiple versions to incorporate multiple languages
- Social Media: Static and video posts
- Webpage: Project details, connecting/alternate routes, etc.

Outreach & Engagement

- Stakeholder Communications
- Customer Engagement
- Partner/Community Events



Q & A